

News Clippings

3/14/08

SEVERE WEATHER

Aurora

Blizzard of '08: Roads

[Read the Article](#)

The Journal-Press

Blizzard of '08: Roads

By Denise Freitag Burdette , Assistant News Editor

Considering a foot of snow piled up in some areas of the county over the weekend, the outcome was pretty good.

Dearborn County Emergency Management Director Bill Black Jr. and Transportation Department Director Todd Listerman said most people heeded the Level Three snow emergency warning people to stay off the roads.

Now if people would just stop calling county dispatchers to ask about the snow emergency levels.

"They already have enough to do," said Black.

People need to watch television or listen to the radio to find out about the emergency levels. Some calls were even made through 911, he said.

Then after calling, some people argue with dispatchers about the level and the ability of their vehicles to travel through the snow, he said.

Keeping vehicles off the roads makes cleaning up the road easier and the transportation department drivers do not have to worry about other people out in the snow, said Listerman.

A Level Two snow emergency, indicating road conditions are dangerous to routine traffic and only necessary travel should be made, was declared at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 7. A Level Three was declared at 8:30 p.m. Friday. At that time motorists are to stay off the roads unless there is an emergency. Citations may be written.

The level dropped back down to two at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, and the level was lifted by 6 p.m. Sunday, March 9.

Dearborn County commissioners declared the event a disaster emergency in an effort to receive federal funds to cover expenses such as overtime, said Black.

Figures from throughout the county, including cities and towns, are being gathered to send to the state. All 12 counties within Dearborn's Homeland Security district declared disasters along with at least three other Indiana counties. The governor, however, must make the declaration for federal funds to be a possibility, he said.

There were no problems out of the ordinary, but Black spent the night at the emergency management building in downtown Lawrenceburg Friday night in case there were any emergencies during the Level Three, he said.

Meanwhile the county transportation department went to work Friday with the regular crew of 16 trucks and drivers on the road until 11:30 p.m.

"We don't work anyone more than a 16-hour day," said Listerman.

A second crew of 10 drivers took over after 11:30 p.m. At least 10 drivers and trucks were on the roads at all times, he said.

This was possible due to all the transportation workers being required to obtain a CDL license, a requirement he asked for from the county commissioners a couple years ago, said Listerman.

Snow removal from the main roads was the focus Friday and through Saturday afternoon. After the snow stopped and pavement could be seen salt and sand was placed on the roads. Placing treatments on the roads sooner would not have been productive, he said.

"Basically you would be throwing money out the door," said Listerman.

The salt worked well after the sun started shining Saturday and Sunday. The focus on Sunday was widening the main roads and cleaning up subdivisions to allow everyone to get to work and school Monday, he said.

Other than a two-hour delay for South Dearborn schools Monday, everyone seemed on schedule, he said.

A couple of the trucks did get stuck in the snow with slick conditions and 4 to 5 foot high snow drifts that made seeing the road edges difficult. Other equipment, such as backhoes, were brought in to clear some of the snow to allow the snow plows to get through, said Listerman.

Some residents with tractors helped clear some of the roads before the county arrived which helped, he said.

[*Back to Severe Weather*](#)